

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for sealing an operating member of a sliding or rotating assembly  
5 includes a seal formed by a composition of materials. A plurality of abrasive particles  
are incorporated into the composition and thus positioned within the seal. The abrasive  
particles are disposed to remove an amount of material adhering to the operating  
member, caused primarily by graphite adhesion. The composition forming the seal can  
be in the form of a laminate structure, and made of graphite, or graphite and  
10 polytetrafluoroethylene (“PTFE”). The plurality of abrasive particles can be selected to  
be suitable for removing material, while not substantially damaging a surface of the  
operating member.